

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CPR-01 A-01 MED-03 INR-07

CIAE-00 NSC-05 DRC-01 AS-01 /049 W

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P 062235Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 255

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0670

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: GOES REQUEST MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SALVADORAN
AIR FORCE COMMANDER

REF: STATE A-9211 OF DECEMBER 17, 1974

1. I RECOMMEND THAT COLONEL GODOFREDO REGALADO, COMMANDER, SALVADORAN AIR FORCE, BE ADMITTED TO WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER FOR A COMPLETE CORONARY ARTERIOGRAPHY EXAMINATION. I MAKE THIS RECOMMENDATION WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED AIRGRAM AND CONCLUDE THAT THIS REQUEST IS SUFFICIENTLY IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS TO MERIT SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. THE BACKGROUND OF THIS REQUEST IS EXPLAINED BELOW.

2. SINCE NOVEMBER 1975, COLONEL REGALADO FELT SEVERE PAIN AT THE BASE OF HIS BRAIN. THE PAIN, WHICH HAD A LASTING EFFECT OF FROM MINUTES TO AS MUCH AS ONE HOUR, FORCED HIM TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION. AFTER SEVERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, HIS DOCTOR DETERMINED THAT COLONEL REGALADO WAS SUFFERING FROM A CORONARY HEART DISEASE BELIEVED TO BE A COMPLETE BLOCKAGE OF THE RIGHT ARTERY. HIS DOCTORS STATE THAT TESTS INDICATE A CORONARY INSUFFICIENCY, AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE FURTHER STUDIES MADE OF HIS HEART PROBLEM WITH A COMPLETE CORONARY ARTERIOGRAPHY AND REFERRED HIM TO A US
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HOSPITAL. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, COLONEL REGALADO

NOTIFIED COLONEL CARLOS H. ROMERO, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHO IN TURN NOTIFIED COLONEL ARTURO A. MOLINA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE US AMBASSADOR THROUGH THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE FOR COLONEL REGALADO.

3. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS URGENTLY REQUESTED THAT COLONEL REGALADO BE EXAMINED SPECIFICALLY AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER. HE WILL DEFRAY ALL COSTS RELATED TO THIS TREATMENT.

4. IN MAKING THIS REQUEST, WE CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING

FACTS. FIRST, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT COLONEL REGALADO CAN PROBABLY BE TREATED ADEQUATELY IN A NON-MILITARY HOSPITAL; HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT, COL ROMERO, AND COLONEL REGALADO (AS MOST LATIN AMERICAN OFFICERS, HAVE BLIND FAITH IN WALTER REED, CALLING IT, "THE SOURCE OF LIFE FOR US PRESIDENTS." HE RULED OUT OUR SUGGESTION OF GORGAS OR ANY OTHER MEDICAL FACILITY. THUS, MY REQUEST IS BASED PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, I.E., SHOWING DUE CONCERN FOR, AND RESPONSIVENESS TO, AN URGENT REQUEST MADE OF ME BY GOES OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THE APPROVAL OF THIS REIMBURSABLE REQUEST WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL CREDIT (RECIPROCATED IN TIMES OF NEED).

5. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERCESSION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR PROMPT AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST.

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